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INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
BUREAU INTERAFRICAIN DES RESSOURCES ANIMALES

NORTH EASTERN PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NEPDP)



The AU-IBAR HQ at Nairobi, the NEPDP main liaison Center

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2006¹

January 2007

¹ More detailed reports on specific activities are available and can be requested from the Team leader

Report compiled for NEPDP by the Team Leader

For inquiries, contact Dr. Samuel Muriuki Telephone: 254-20-3674000, Fax: 254-20-3674341

Email: Samuel.muriuki@au-ibar.org

Website: www.au-ibar.org

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Abstract

The NEPDP experienced dampened field activities during the quarter under review due to inaccessibility of field locations as a result of heavy rainfall and flooding in the entire program area of operation. In spite the hardships associated with this scenario, a number of activities were successfully implemented.

Among the key hallmarks of the reporting period was increased liaison and involvement of the partners in the execution of project activities. This approach was chosen as a strategic measure to get the partners to take charge of the processes for sustainability. In this relation, the Veterinary department largely organized the consultative workshop on disease surveillance while the private sector partners were handed the responsibility of arranging the export promotion trips. This approach will be enhanced in the coming period to ensure full ownership of the project by the implementing partners and beneficiaries.

In order to ensure greater participation by the private sector players, the proposed realignment seeks enhanced support and facilitation of the 2 organizations and their grassroots branches.

Coordination and facilitation of the private sector partners also improved greatly. Both KLMC and LKTMSK were able to participate in and report on achievements in advocacy, market access and internal capacity development. Major strides were made in achieving the program objective of increasing the income of pastoral livelihoods in NEP and TRD through increased local and export sale of livestock by the private sector partners.

The unforeseen outbreak of the RVF in the program areas has presented a new threat to pastoral livelihoods. Intervention measures were marked by a slow response due to lack of preparedness, thus increasing the risk of the disease spreading outside the primary foci. This has serious implications for the program and stakeholders will need to assess the situation and make provisions for dealing with the new problem.

The program invested substantial time and resources in team building among all key players. The TOT and Team building workshops and increased involvement of primary partners in NEPDP activities attest to this. This is expected to lead to increased tempo in the execution of field activities during the coming periods.

2. Introduction

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) is a specialist technical body of the African Union (AU)) established in 1951. It has the mandate to enhance the AU member states and their regional economic communities ability to sustainably improve the contribution of their animal resources to the nutrition and incomes of their communities; especially the rural poor. This mandate is organized around three core programmatic thrusts, namely;

- Animal health
- Animal production
- Trade and Markets

These core thrusts are supported by 3 cross-cutting pillars comprising;

- Livestock information, communication and knowledge management
- Quality assurance of livestock and products of animal origin
- Harmonization of livestock related policies and legal frameworks

In the pursuit of its mandate AU-IBAR has defined its functions as follows:

- Improvement of animal health service delivery systems
- Improvement of animal feeds and feed resources
- Improvement of animal genetic resources
- Development of animal industry and marketing of livestock and livestock products
- Promotion of technology transfer for the development of animal resources
- Promotion of the development of human resources for the animal industry
- Encouraging research in the are of livestock development
- Organization of scientific conferences, workshops and seminars related to animal resources development and management

In order to realize its objectives, the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources carries out a number of activities

- Coordinates the activities of all AU member states in the field of animal health and production
- Collects, collates and disseminates information on all aspects of animal health and production
- Liaises with appropriate authorities of member states, regional groups, inter-governmental and international organizations on matters of animal health and production
- Initiates, develops and executes projects in the fields of animal health and production

The North Eastern Pastoral Development Program (NEPD) is a livestock development program developed and executed by the AU-IBAR in collaboration with the government of Kenya and private sector partners. With funding from USAID Kenya, it runs from February 2005 to February 2008. Its main focus is to increase the household incomes, and therefore improve the livelihoods of pastoralists in the North

Eastern Province and Tana River districts of Kenya. These areas mainly depend on livestock production for their livelihoods. The producers have, however, remained poor partly due to their inability to access markets for livestock and livestock products, and due to high livestock mortality and morbidity as a result of lack of optimal access to animal health services and products.

To achieve its broad objectives, the project is working to strengthen livestock marketing, disease control and access to animal health care delivery in the target pastoral districts by adopting the following strategies:

- Strengthening the institutional capacity of local organizations involved in the promotion of livestock marketing and related services support to pastoralists
- Strengthening the capacity of the veterinary department for animal health service delivery and disease control
- Strengthening private-public sector collaboration in market access and service delivery

The program has been organized into 4 components as follows;

- Institutional strengthening of KLMC and LTMS-K and their member associations.
- Improved advocacy ability of KLMC, LTMS-K CAHWs and their member associations.
- Financial and non-financial services for marketing and animal health including peace initiatives, and
- Improved disease surveillance and animal health services.

The NEPDP is implemented through relevant departments of the MOLFD and private sector partners; namely the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC) and Livestock Traders and Marketing Society of Kenya (LTMSK).

3. Program Objective and Targets for the Quarter

The key objective of the NEPDP during the reporting period was to roll-out field activities and prepare the ground work for fast tracking implementation processes by preparing key stakeholders to assume their implementation roles. Key activities during the period included training of trainers and facilitating stakeholder consultations on the enhancement of disease surveillance and the role of disease free zones in livestock exports. There was also a major thrust to integrate the Mobile Laboratories acquired for the veterinary department into the operations and activities of the District Veterinary Officers in the program areas of operation.

Activities geared towards consolidating team effort between AU-IBAR, NEPDP program staff and implementing partner staff were also carried out during the period. Efforts were also intensified to promote interventions that enhance the ability of pastoralist households to generate more income. Special attention was paid to expanding access to local and export markets, and improved trading in livestock commodities (milk).

During the reporting period, however, the program experienced unprecedented challenges occasioned by abnormally high precipitation, flooding and an outbreak of the rift valley fever, a livestock disease that has enormous public health and marketing

significance. The outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in the program area created a new challenge with the potential of negating gains made in livestock marketing across the region and the whole country. NEPDP took an active role in the planning and facilitation of an emergency that is still ongoing. All available program resources have been mobilized for the operation. Contingency arrangements are also being made to mitigate the damage caused by the RVF outbreak.

4. Summary of Activities and Achievements

The following activities were undertaken as part of the NEPDP implementation during the reporting period:

1. Establishment of Rift Valley Fever Surveillance sentinel herd at Kotile in collaboration with CDC and the DVO
2. Attending of MoLFD /USAID Consultative meeting at Nairobi, attended by the whole technical team.
3. Quarterly Planning meeting at Garissa, attended by all technical staff at Garissa, the Accountant from Nairobi, the Accounts assistant, the Team leader and the two CEO's-KLMC and LTMSK
4. Kotile market official launch attended by the team members
5. Participated in launching of feeder Market of Dertu Millenium project, attended by the Project Manager and the Livestock Marketing Expert
6. Attended the sixth USAID/MoIFD project progress meeting, attended by the whole technical team, LTMSK
7. Participated in the National World Food Day at Garissa, attended by the Project Manager and the Livestock Marketing Expert
8. Continued to strengthen the Kotile Market by building the capacity of the local DLMC
9. Workshop on Early Warning System organised by LINKS/ILRI attended by the Livestock Marketing expert along with members of the DLMC.
10. Attended a DSG meeting to address the floods epidemic in the region.
11. Strengthening of Kotile Market through capacity building of local stakeholders
12. A meeting with the community members of Bangale livestock market in preparation for strengthening the market.
13. Preliminary data collection on milk marketing status in Garissa.
14. Preparation of a budget proposal on assessment of milk marketing for Mandera, Garissa and Wajir districts, a questionnaire and a log frame. Due to the conditions outlined above, this was only based on desk top and secondary data as it was not possible to make visits to the actual sites to form basis for justification and implementation from the point of view of the community.
15. Quotations for Kotile market bill board was given out, and the process of
16. A workshop to strengthen disease surveillance for livestock promotion in the project area and the coastal regions of Kenya organised at Nomads

- Palace Hotel Garissa from 28th to 30th November with a attendance of 50 participants from both the private and public sector
17. Disease screening/ surveillance activities at Garissa in collaboration with the regional Veterinary Investigations Laboratory
 18. Report on Technical evaluation for laboratory disease surveillance requirements
 19. Report on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for the Community animal health workers (CAHWs) trainers and trainee.
 20. A Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for Community Animal Health Workers done involving all VOs and LOs in all the districts and form it a Plan of Action drawn.

5. Detailed Presentation of Activities & Achievements

5.1 Component 1: Institutional Strengthening of KLMC, LTMSK and their Member Associations

This component of the program is principally concerned with the capacity building of the KLMC and LTMSK and their member. Various avenues are available and have been utilised by the program to build the capacity of individual members and management of the 2 organizations.

5.1.1 Workshop on Early Warning Systems organised by LINKS/ ILRI

Participants were educated on all aspects of EWS (Design, structure, costs and outputs). Among the workshop participants are DLMC members from Mandera. These will be able to train other members at the districts on market information and EWS

5.1.2 Launching of Dertu Millenium Village Livestock Market

Program staff and partners (LTMSK, DLMCs) were facilitated to participate in the publicity and opening of the new livestock market to traders. Linkages were established with the MDG village staff to further livestock marketing development in the region.

5.2 Component 2: Improved Advocacy of KLMC, LTMSK, DLMCs and Member Associations

5.2.1 USAID/MOLFD Coordination

NEPDP implementing team and partners attended the USAID/MOLFD coordination meeting. They made presentations on program achievements and interacted with other USAID funded projects in the ministry. Private sector partners also took the opportunity to share experience and express their views on various issues to public and development sector players.

5.2.2 Needs Assessment for Bangale Livestock Market

A consultative meeting was held with the community members including the market chairman, Tana River county council officials and DLMC members. Key players are the local County Council and ALRMP. NEPDP is working to identify capacity gaps and strategizing how to participate in filling them. Assessments and collaboration will continue as NEPDP seeks to assist in opening up local markets as a way of stimulating household income generation among pastoralists.

5. 2.3 Assessment of milk marketing opportunities and capacity building needs in Garissa

Milk marketing was identified by the pastoral value chains study, as a viable income generation; but hitherto underdeveloped opportunity especially for women. Following up on this, the project is seeking ways of strengthening milk marketing in its areas of operation. Discussions were held and questionnaires developed for administration to various stakeholders to identify needs and ongoing activities on milk marketing. This will help the program identify intervention points and execute actions that will add value to household income generation.

5.2.4 Achievements by private sector implementing partners; KLMC and LTMSK during the period

5.2.4.1 Achievements by KLMC

During the reporting period, KLMC, one of the key private sector partners involved in NEPDP implementation, accomplished the following milestones;

- Facilitated mass treatments and vaccination of Livestock In Wajir and its other areas of operation
- DLMCs continued to work with NEPDP field staff in the strengthening of kotile Market and establishment of new markets at Bangale and Waldena.
- **Export Markets Promotion**

Preparations for the ME livestock export promotion trips were suspended following information that it would not be possible to travel in November and December as planned due to the Hajj celebrations. These were scheduled to resume in January but have now been pushed forward due to the ongoing outbreak of RVF in the program areas. LTMSK and KLMC are expected to play the leading role with the technical support of MOLFD, EPC and AU-IBAR when these preparations resume.

- **Capacity Building**

Meetings were held to discuss various issues and enhance the participation of KLMC and DLMCs in NEPDP program activities as a capacity building strategy. The following events were of special significance

- a. Discussion of NEPDP program and budget realignment to provide for additional support to LTMSK and KLMC. A consultative meeting was held in Mombasa after conclusion of the Team Building workshop
- b. NEPDP quarterly review and planning meeting held at Garissa in October. Program issues, performance and strategies were discussed
- c. Disease surveillance consultative workshop and SERCECU in-country workshop on rinderpest control – KLMC participated and made presentations

- d. The KLMC CEO and DLMCs also participated in the following events after invitation by other NEPDP/AU-IBAR partners
- CAAP launch
 - Millenium Village Launch
 - WVI Pastoralism Workshop
 - MOLFD/USAID coordination workshop

These forums provided empowering exposure and interaction with key players in pastoral development and livelihood enhancement programs.

- **RVF Control**

KLMC, LTMST and DLMCs played an active role the control of RVF following an outbreak in North Eastern and Coast provinces. Among key roles played included mobilisation of local leadership to enforce government actions, sensitisation of the community and mobilisation of resources (project vehicle and driver) for RVF control efforts.

5.2.4.2. Achievements by LTMSK

During the reporting period, LTMSK, one of the key private sector partners, in the pursuit of their mission and with the facilitation of the program, made remarkable progress in advocating for expanded market access for livestock from pastoral areas. The organization was able to effectively participate in program implementation by organizing relevant activities as spelt out ion the work plan for the period.

The following activities were undertaken/implemented by both at **LTMSK** level and in partnership with other key stakeholders and **NEPDP** project technical staff.

Summary:

1. Marketing/Serviceing contracts with Kenya Meat Commission.
2. Sale of animals to Scovia PLC of Mauritius.
3. LTMSK/DLMC capacity building training program
4. Grassroots secretariats
5. Export Promotion
6. RVF control

Detailed accounts:

- **Livestock Sales During the period**

Since the month of July, LTMSK entered into an agreement with the management of the **Kenya Meat Commission** at Athi-River Nairobi for a quarterly livestock supply. The Livestock Manager, Veterinary officer and Chief Grader from **KMC** visited four ranches owned by its members, where selection, grading, ear tagging of **3000 bulls** with an average live weight of **349.5 kg**. Weekly deliveries of 400

head have been made throughout the period. Sales (at Kshs. 67/Kg) have since earned LTMSK members **Ksh. 70,249,500** (Seventy Million, Two Hundred And Forty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred). Over the period **LTMSK** also sold **4500** bulls and **3000** small stock to their traditional buyers from **Mauritius**. This was done in five (5) Shipments from the **port of Mombasa** to the **Port Louis**. This was the largest consignment to be sent to Mauritius and this was due to the market competition faced by the Mauritius from **Kenya Meat Commission** factory entrant into the market. This sale of these animals earned LTMSK members **Ksh 90,450,000 (Ninety Million Four Hundred And Fifty Thousand)**.

This revenue has triggered positive reaction and improved incomes leading to better livestock prices in Garissa, Ijara and Tana River as traders went back to purchase animals hence higher prices for the ordinary pastoralists. **This has direct impact on household incomes of the program areas.**

- **Regional/Grass roots secretariats**

The process of opening **LTMSK Secretariats** at Garissa, Ijara, Tana River and Witu was initiated. In the next quarter all these secretariats will be fully operational. This will be done with the assistance and collaboration of **NEPDP** technical staff and other development partners.

- **Livestock Export Promotions**

Preparations for the ME livestock export promotion trips were suspended following information that it would not be possible to travel in November and December as planned due to the Hajj celebrations. These were scheduled to resume in January but have now been pushed forward due to the ongoing outbreak of RVF in the program areas. At the time of suspension, a decision had been made to have the meetings steered by the private sector players, with the participation of public sector. LTMSK and KLMC are expected to play the leading role with the technical support of MOLFD, EPC and AU-IBAR when these preparations resume.

Besides the above, LTMSK hosted various delegations from Australia, Middle East, Egypt and Mauritius where livestock exports were discussed

- **Capacity Building**

Meetings were held to discuss various issues and enhance the participation of LTMSK in NEPDP program activities as a capacity building strategy. The following events were of special significance

- e. Discussion of NEPDP program and budget realignment to provide for additional support to LTMSK and KLMC. A consultative meeting was held in Mombasa after conclusion of the Team Building workshop

- f. NEPDP quarterly review and planning meeting held at Garissa in October. Program issues, performance and strategies were discussed
- g. Disease surveillance consultative workshop and SERCECU in-country workshop on rinderpest control – LTMSK participated and made presentations
- h. The LTMSK CEO also participated in the following events after invitation by other NEPDP/AU-IBAR partners
 - CAAP launch
 - Millenium Village Launch
 - WVI Pastoralism Workshop
 - MOLFD/USAID coordination workshop

These for a provided empowering exposure and interaction with key players in pastoral development and livelihood enhancement programs.

- **RVF Control**
- LTMST played an active role the control of RVF following an outbreak in North Eastern and Coast provinces. Among key roles played included mobilisation of local leadership to enforce government actions, sensitisation of the community and mobilisation of resources for RVF control efforts. Concerted efforts have also been geared towards protection of the DFZ ranches from potential RVF spread, through facilitation of the provincial veterinary authorities to undertake appropriate measures to educate the people and ensure appropriate livestock movement controls. Participation in these activities by the LTMSK CEO enhanced community participation and compliance with the measures put in place by the government and other partners/players.

5.3 Component 3: Financial and Non Financial Services for Marketing and Animal Health



Part of the newly opened livestock market at Kotile, Ijara

5.3.1 Promotion of Access to Export Markets for livestock and livestock products

The NEPDP continued working towards promoting access to export markets for livestock by coordinating discussions and preparations for market trips to the Middle East. The efforts were, however, suspended briefly when it emerged from correspondence with target countries that the planned time of visit (December) was not appropriate because of the Hajj. Key partners in the effort included MOLFD, KMC, EPC and private sector partners.

The MOLFD, however, organized a separate trip to Europe and some ME destinations. Unfortunately, this did not involve the NEPDP private sector partners. There is, however, a reported increase in the export of chilled meat from KMC to European and ME destinations. This has had a pull effect on

livestock sales from the NEP and TRD via ranches at the DFZs in Coast Province.

5.3.2 Livestock marketing billboard

A livestock marketing billboard will assist the traders and producers to know the prices of livestock in other LINKS connected markets and hence make rational decisions while buying and selling livestock: Quotations for construction of a livestock marketing bill board for Kotile market to merchants in Garissa.

5.3.3 Strengthening of Kotile Market

The project facilitated opening of Kotile market in the previous quarter and the main issue has been on how to strengthen it. Local KLMC and LTMSK members and County council officials have been on the forefront in spearheading activities at the market. NEPDP facilitated District DLMC members with logistics to assist in strengthening of Kotile market. We held a meeting with the DLMC/County council officials at Ijara and identified the areas that need to be emphasised on, in order to make the market a success. The market attracted a lot of livestock from the local community but buyers are yet to turn up in equally big numbers to ensure transactions are sealed. A lot of publicity is required to sensitize livestock buyers on the market and livestock sellers on market prices.

5.3.4 Pastoralists Field Day at Kenya Meat Commission

NEPDP in collaboration with SNV northern Kenya Portfolio and KLMC initiated planning to organize a field day for pastoralists at the KMC Athi River campus to facilitate interaction and learning to enable them (pastoralists) to understand the requirements for selling animals to KMC. This is expected to boost access to KMC as a livestock market for the pastoralists. NEPDP will facilitate delegates from its areas of operation in the next period.

5.4 Component 4: Improved Disease Surveillance and Animal Health Service Delivery



A practical session during the TOT for MOLFD and NEPDP technical staff workshop held at Bura Country Club

Disease surveillance and reporting activities gathered momentum during the reporting period. The main thrust was to hand over the mobile laboratory units to the district veterinary officers, establish their management norms, and integrate mobile laboratory operationalization and strategic linkages with the national VIL system. Several activities were undertaken under this component as presented here below;

5.4.1. Procurement of Laboratory Stores

Bids received for the supply of reagents and other materials for disease surveillance activities were analysed by the relevant technical and procurement personnel. The award process is near completion. Meanwhile, reagents and supplies for routine disease surveillance are being provided by the Veterinary Department as per the arrangements put in place to sustain the activity. The procurement documents have been studied and approved by the donor.

5.4.2 Disease screening and other surveillance activities

During the reporting period, the program in collaboration with the RVIL Garissa and other DVS personnel conducted disease screening on trade animals against CBPP at the Garissa market. The team provided testing reagents and other logistics while the project provided them with fuel and the mobile laboratory equipment. A total of 407 animals were screened against CBPP using Complement Fixation Test. 406 were negative for CBPP while one was positive. The negative animals were moved to the ranches in Eastern and Coast provinces for fattening. Mobile laboratory units in other districts were not put into use due to inaccessibility of the roads.

5.4.3 Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for the Community animal health workers (CAHWs) trainers and trainees

Questionnaires to determine training needs for the CAHWs trainers and trainees were administered to Veterinary Department staff and CAHWs respectively in Garissa and TRD in October. The main objective of the exercise was to capture basic information relating to disease surveillance and control activities by key stakeholders in the program area. This information was necessary for better understanding of the situation on the ground and planning the training package for the TOTs. Details obtained were used to design a training package and deliver it. The TOT training was conducted during the quarter in collaboration with the FARM Africa's technical advisory and Training Unit, who have a lot of experience in the training and establishment of CAHW systems.

The involvement of DVS/MOLFD staff in the training of CAHWs is a strategic choice aimed at bridging the perceptual gap and rivalry between DVS personnel and CAHWs witnessed in many parts of the country. The one week training achieved a tremendous change in mindset among the trainees and is seen as a significant achievement towards influencing these strategic grassroots based policy makers in viewing CAHWs positively and supporting their participation in animal health service delivery. Their participation in CAHW training will have a dual impact by creating an opportunity for interaction, information sharing and networking between DVS personnel and the CAHWs. The DVS personnel will also be able to better understand the capabilities and needs that need to be addressed to make the CAHWs more effective partners in animal health service delivery in the pastoral areas.

A total of 24 government officers (MOLFD) from across the program areas, 3 NEPDP technical staff, 1 livestock entrepreneurship intern from UNDP and 1 officer from SERECU project of AU-IBAR were trained as trainers. The district based trainers also developed action plans for CAHW training in their districts of origin. The NEPDP will facilitate the implementation of their action plans and continue to support their capacity building to enable them become effective CAHW trainers.

5.4.4 Consultative workshop on strengthening of livestock disease surveillance

One of the main components of the NEPDP is to improve disease surveillance and animal health services delivery. Through this objective, the project has provided the Veterinary Department with 3 mobile veterinary laboratories to facilitate disease surveillance and screening activities along the marketing chain. For this assistance to make lasting impact, it must be integrated into the already existing veterinary laboratory system and enhance its ability to meet international disease surveillance standards. Another significant input of the NEPDP is to strengthen coordination and partnership between the department and the private sector service providers.

To achieve this, the NEPDP facilitated the Department of Veterinary Services to organize a three day Consultative workshop on strengthening of disease surveillance in the North Eastern Province and the livestock export promotion zones in the Coastal regions of Kenya.

It focused on the promotion of livestock marketing through establishment of an effective disease surveillance system and disease free zones. The forum provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to discuss the status of the existing disease surveillance system and how it could be strengthened to facilitate compliance with OIE standards and requirements for disease free status, and ultimately enhance the competitiveness of pastoral livestock and livestock products in the international market. Substantial attention was given to the need for all-inclusive stakeholders' participation to ensure sustainability and success.

The minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development was the chief guest. He was represented by the Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Joseph Musaa. It was attended by 52 participants from relevant government departments, development agencies, NGOs and CBOs, private practitioners, local authorities, livestock traders and their organizations, and pastoralists. The operations of the Disease Surveillance system were discussed and recommendations made on key areas of improvement.

The following recommendations touching on MOLFD policy and related issues were made:

- i. The forum notes that facilitation of livestock trade and marketing through disease surveillance and creation of disease free zones is critical in livestock development, but is hampered by insufficient capacity of the Directorate of Veterinary Services, especially with regards to manpower and other support resources. ***It is therefore recommended that the MoLFD should lobby the Treasury and DPM for increased allocation of resources (funding) and***

recruitment of more trained personnel respectively, to enable the department effectively deliver on its statutory mandates.

- ii.** Noting the importance of private sector participation in the livestock sector, it is recommended that the ***Directorate of Veterinary Services in collaboration with other stakeholders and partners should take appropriate measures for instance review of relevant policies, sensitization and training, to facilitate private sector participation in animal health service delivery including disease surveillance and the establishment of disease free zones.***
- iii.** In order to enhance the laboratory capacity, especially in the North Eastern Province, it is recommended that the ***DVS takes the responsibility of providing the required personnel and utilities for the three mobile laboratories provided through the NEPDP, for their effective operations, and make provisions for their maintenance after the project ends.***
- iv.** Noting that NEPDP programme was operationalized late therefore allowing inadequate implementation time, the ***stakeholders in the workshop recommend that the programme time be extended to cover the time lost in order to ensure fully implementation of the planned activities.***
- v.** The workshop participants underscored the importance of quality service provision in order to ensure compliance with international requirements, and recommended that:
- vi.** The DVS in collaboration with other stakeholders promotes training, awareness creation, coordination, supervision, and regulation of all services providers.
- vii.** Livestock keepers / owners and other stakeholders commit themselves to playing their roles in disease control, including reporting and compliance with various disease control the regulations.
- viii.** Noting the free livestock movements across the Kenyan borders, this ***workshop recommends that AU/IBAR supports the countries in the region in their endeavours to combat livestock diseases, and in the establishment of sustainable animal health service delivery systems including disease screening and establishing check units at appropriate border points.***

From the recommendations of this workshop, NEPDP will be working with the DVS and key stakeholders to facilitate lobby for more resources to support its operations. This was identified as one of the key weaknesses affecting service delivery by the department. Other areas identified for improvement are policy review to improve the participation of private sector players in disease surveillance and control activities.

The workshop made positive contribution to IR 7.3.1 and NEPDP will continue to provide support towards appropriate actions and policy reforms to create an enabling environment for better service delivery, especially through increased private sector participation.

5.5.5 Rift Valley Fever Outbreak Control

Following the unusually heavy precipitation received in the Horn Africa, the NEPDP area of operation experienced flooding and an outbreak of both water borne and vector borne diseases. Human and livestock were also swept away by floods and many deaths have been reported. The biggest devastation from the heavy rains is the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever, a viral disease of livestock that is transmitted to humans with serious consequences. So far, the disease has killed over 90 humans, several hundreds of livestock and has caused abortions in hundreds of pregnant livestock. Initially reported in a remote village in Garissa, the disease has since spread to Ijara, Wajir in NEP and Tana River, Kilifi and Kwale districts in Coast province.

Following these unforeseen events, an emergency response mechanism was instituted by the government with the support of its key partners and stakeholders. The NEPDP played a crucial role at forums called to develop a strategy and mobilize resources for the control of RVF outbreak in its areas of operation. A five pronged approach comprising:

- Vaccination of non-infected livestock of species in the affected and high risk areas
- Treatment of infected and other vulnerable livestock
- Control of insect vectors using appropriate broad spectrum preparations
- Education of the livestock keepers on precautions to take to prevent infection of humans and spread to non infected herds/areas.
- Risk assessment in adjacent high risk areas to advice vaccination teams on appropriate actions to stem spread of the disease

The project and its implementing partners mobilized 2 passenger vehicles (KLMC & LTMSK), 3 mobile laboratories and personnel to facilitate risk assessment/surveillance efforts in areas around the outbreak foci and vaccination/treatment efforts in the outbreak foci.



RVF vaccination at the Modika Market in Garissa

In spite the ongoing interventions, the RVF outbreak has altered the livestock marketing environment and will require rigorous attention to repair the damage. Among the things that need redress include emergency preparedness. The long reaction time taken by the veterinary authorities to mount a response is evidence of lack of emergency preparedness, low capacity and under-resourcing of the DVS (as stated at the disease surveillance consultative workshop). These are critical areas where support for the Department is urgently required. It is crucial to take the discussions initiated with CDC and other partners forward, towards the formulation of a sustainable regional emergency preparedness mechanism and strengthen the regional veterinary authorities' ability to institute control measures.

See annex 1 for a detailed statement of the actions taken and proposed way forward.

6. Networking and Team Building

The NEPDP is designed to work with other programs and projects to fill gaps in pastoral development in North Eastern and Coast provinces. As such, program implementation is organized so as to link with other players in the pastoral set up. Additionally, efforts have been made to consolidate team work and common understanding among the diverse partners working in the program.

During the reporting period, the following collaborative and team building activities were carried out.

6.1 Collaborative Activities with CDC KEMRI in RVF surveillance

The NEPDP disease surveillance and animal health service delivery objective has proposals to participate in the development of an RVF prediction and early warning model. Upon discussions, it was informally agreed that the NEPDP works closely with CDC on RVF surveillance. Already collaborative efforts are ongoing in the establishment and monitoring of sentinel herds in NEP and TRD. Additional work is being done to formalize the collaboration between the key players in RVF surveillance work.

6.2 Sixth USAID /MOLFD consultative meeting

This was held at Kilimo House On 18th October 2006. The entire NEPDP technical team and partners took part in the above meeting. They had a chance to interact with USAID officials and USAID funded projects in the MOLFD.

6.3 Team building workshop

In an effort to consolidate team work and common understanding among implementing partners, the program organized a team building workshop for persons involved in program implementation within the MOLFD, AU-IBAR and NEPDP. PEAK Performance International, a human resource development organization was competitively recruited to facilitate the training.

A total 17 people, comprising 5 from the MOLFD areas of operation, 4 from AU-IBAR, 2 from KLMC and one from LTMSK and 5 from the NEPDP field office attended the training. The workshop emphasized emotional intelligence, healthy living, winning psychology, self-evaluation and goal setting and fire walk. Participants also had the chance to explore the various issues that impact on performance. The Permanent Secretary, MOLFD was the chief guest.

Along the team building workshop, the NEPDP management team and key partners held a one day meeting to discuss program alignments to improve its effectiveness, address new identified needs and improve participation by the partners in program implementation. Other team meetings were held in Garissa

to review the past quarter performance and plan for the reporting period. Additionally, 2 other meetings were held to discuss project performance and action plans with all Veterinary Staff from the 5 districts covered by the project respectively.

6.4 Collaboration with Millenium Village project

The field project team and local partners were invited to the launch of the Millenium Village sponsored livestock market and Dertu in Garissa. After the successful launch, NEPDP staff and partners are working closely with the project to promote access to market and value addition to livestock and their products.

6.5 Rift Valley Fever Outbreak Control

The program collaborated closely with other stakeholders in the planning, resource mobilization and execution of the rift Valley Fever control initiative led by the veterinary department. Key collaborators included FAO, CDC, ALRMP, Cooper Kenya, KWS, Vetaid UK, VSF Suisse and AU-IBAR through NEPDP.

6.6 SERECU in Country Workshop for Kenya

The NEPDP technical team participated in a 2-day workshop organized by the AU-IBAR managed Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Coordination Unit (SERECU) in Garissa. The workshop discussed among other, cross-border disease surveillance and reporting systems and the role of private sector animal health delivery systems within the SES.

The SERECU Animal Health Delivery Systems Officer participated in the TOT for CAHW trainers facilitated by the NEPDP.



7 Table 1: Project summary of achievements against Plans and Interim Results during reporting period

USAID IR	Component	Activity	Status of agreed on process indicators (Targets in brackets)					Comments
			Process indicator	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	
IR 7.4	Institutional strengthening of KLMC, LMTS-K and their member associations	Develop detailed business plans for the council and society Capacity building for KLMC and LTMSK branches	Number of business plans developed	0(2)	2(2)	2(2) 1(1)	0(0) 0(0)	The project continued working with trained DLMC personnel at the grassroots level on various aspects of program implementation. Reporting by private sector partners needs greater commitment
IR 7.3.1	Improved advocacy of KLMC, LTMSK, DLMCs and member associations	Hold consultative meetings to lobby and discuss greater stakeholder involvement in the disease surveillance/control and management of livestock marketing	Number of consultative meetings held Number of animals sold locally and export	0[1]	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)	A consultative workshop on disease surveillance and control was conducted. Roles of partners and improvements in the current system were discussed and recommendations made for follow-up

		Undertake trade missions to potential regional and international livestock markets to lobby for increased access for Kenyan livestock and livestock products	Number of trade missions undertaken	0[1]	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)	This activity was postponed because up-coming celebrations in the target countries could not permit planned activities. Preparations will begin as soon as the RVF outbreak has been contained
IR7.3.2	Financial and none financial services for marketing and animal health	Establish a micro-finance scheme to finance livestock and livestock related trade activities	Number of livestock producers and traders accessing financial services from NEPDP	0[10]	0(100)	0(100)	0(0)	TORs were sent out for technical proposals for a competent organization/individual to provide support with the design and implementation of a sustainable financial services scheme. Proposals have been received from K-Rep but Technoserve is yet to submit theirs. Presentations of these proposals are scheduled during the current quarter to facilitate selection and award to the best.
IR7.3.3.3		Train community representatives on peace and development in the region	Number of peace committee members trained	30[50]	59 (50)	(0)	0(0)	The first phase of the training had been concluded in the last quarter. The second phase training was finalized during the current quarter
	Improve control and surveillance of livestock diseases to enhance trade	Establish and equip mobile veterinary laboratories	Number of mobile labs operational at district levels	3[3]	3 (3)	0 (0)	3(3)	Mobile laboratories for Mandera, Garissa and Wajir were operationalized and have been actively involved in the ongoing RVF control interventions

		Carry out livestock disease surveillance campaigns	Number of animals screened for trans-boundary diseases	0[100]	0(100)	216(100)	407(100)	Disease screening was started at Garissa and wajir.
		Training of CAHW TOTs	Number of TOTs trained			0(20)	29(20)	TOT was successfully conducted for all DVS and NEPDP technical staff in the program areas of operation. Action plans were developed for CAHW training.
		Training of CAHWs on disease surveillance and reporting	Number of CAHWs trained			0(40)	0(40)	Delivery was delayed by due to inaccessibility of the districts for TNA and its subsequent effect on TOT training

7.1 Summary Tables

7.1.1 Livestock Marketing

Planned Activities/targets	Activities Achieved	Deviation from Planned	Reasons for Deviation	Lessons Learned/Comments
Component 2 Assess modalities of implementing /facilitating milk marketing	-Prepared a milk budget proposal, a log frame, needs assessment questionnaire	Did not visit and asses milk marketing in Mandera for purposes of implementation	The roads were cut off it was not possible to reach targeted areas.	Effective communications infrastructure is an essential requirement for efficient trade and program delivery
Component 2 2.Mobilise organize and sensitize various stakeholders on Bangale market	Conducted a needs assessment at Bangale market	Participation in implementation of activities was minimal	The market will be relocated to a new site and therefore it is not possible to facilitate implementation of activities. We can only participate in meetings to input into decisions	The program should continue to work with rather that seek to lead the stakeholders as this will order to enhance local ownership of the process
Component 3 3. Facilitation of new livestock auctions/markets in places where none exist	Facilitated Ijara DLMC members with logistics and conduct publicity - Over 1000 cattle were sold @Kshs. 6,500 in the month	Did not visit Waldena market in Tana River in order to facilitate sensitization	The roads were impassable	The program should maintain frequent contact with the stakeholders to provide technical support and identify areas for further input
4 Construction of a livestock marketing bill board	Tendered out for construction of a marketing bill board	The tender documents were wrongly filled	The required specifications were not followed	The office is in the process of bidding out again and it is hoped that construction will commence soon

7.1.2 Disease screening and Surveillance

Planned Activities/targets	Activities Achieved	Deviation from Planned	Reasons for Deviation	Lessons Learned/Comments
1. Disease screening /surveillance activities	- 407 animals screened for CBPP	-Field disease surveillance were postponed	-Heavy rains and floods Inadequate -Resources in the districts; personnel and labs stores.	-Procurement of reagents for disease surveillance to be hastened. -Alternative sources of lab stores to be used -Training of field staff on laboratories procedures is required.
2. Procurement of disease surveillance laboratory surveillance requirements	Report on Technical evaluation for laboratory disease surveillance requirements completed	The report was overdue	The process is tedious and lengthy due to procurement procedures and verification processes	The DVS should ensure continue providing available reagents as the procurement process if finalized and to sustain the labs beyond NEPDP
3. Training needs assessment for the Community animal health (CAH) trainee and trainers	- Reports on the TNA (CAHWs) trainers and trainee -TOT facilitators identified - TOT was conducted for 29 participants	- Questionnaires from three districts used to prepare the TNA report (Ijara, Tana River, and Garissa). Mandera and Wajir left out.	- Heavy rains and floods in the province that made the roads impassable	- The questionnaires from the three districts were used as a representative samples to prepare a TNA report.
4. Consultative workshop on strengthening of disease surveillance	- One workshop organized at Nomads Palace Hotel, Garissa; - 52 participants	N/A	N/A	- Recommendations were made which needs to be pursued and implemented

in the NEP	attended			
Rift Valley Fever Control	NEPDP is taking an active role in RVF control activities	This was not planned for. It is an emergency response		A more proactive role is required for AU-IBAR in the fight against RVF in the GHA

8. Planned activities for the next quarter:

The program has continued to gather momentum as recruited staff settles down and gained increasing understanding of their roles.

The following activities are planned for the current quarter:

- Undertake refresher training of CAHWs on diseases surveillance and reporting with special emphasis on trans-boundary animal diseases
- Support RVF control and surveillance activities
- Initiate the formation of multi-stakeholder participatory district/community based disease surveillance committees under the leadership of trained CAHWs
- Finalize procurement for disease surveillance reagents
- Set up the institutional framework for a livestock MF lending scheme in NEP and TRD
- Facilitate the establishment of new livestock auctions/markets in the program areas.
- Support the operations of Garissa Office and Motor Vehicles for KLMC and LTMSK
- Review the RVF outbreak management and formulate strategy for export market promotion
- Finalize realignment of the NEPDP budget and program activities
- Identify and support CBOs/local NGOs involved in animal health service delivery
- Review the NEPDP M&E framework
- Participate in pastoralism networking and collaborative activities

9. Challenges Experienced and Issues requiring attention

1. The program areas of operation experienced abnormally high precipitation leading to flooding and destruction of the road network. This made it impossible to carry out any field activities. As a result, some of the planned field activities could not be carried out.
2. Further, there occurred an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever in most of the program areas, leading to human and livestock deaths, abortions and closure of all markets. Slaughter was also banned leading to a lot of suffering, both due to lack of the basic foodstuffs and cash (due to lack of sales). The disease has continued to ravage the province and seems to be spreading. This will have a serious impact on pastoral livelihoods for several years to come. The NEPDP/AU-IBAR may need to review its strategy to more strongly address the aftermath of the RVF outbreak.
3. The NEPDP lost about one year of implementation time due to late start-up and unavoidable delays. This means more time is needed to carryout the planned activities and achieve NEPDP objectives. A no cost extension should be considered at the beginning of the next financial year to give the program team ample time to make adjustments to the implementation plans
4. The program budget lacks inputs for administrative and logistics support. This has forced the TL and program accountant to spend a lot of time on administrative rather than technical matters of the program. Program realignment has been initiated to ensure effectiveness in resource and role allocations. This will provide for a better focus on the capacity building of local/private sector partners who are expected to sustain its benefits at the conclusion of the project. At the moment, little resources are allocated for their capacity building beyond the business plans. For instance, there are no resources allocated to facilitate the revitalization of district branches in order to enable them mobilize grassroots producers to access both markets and livestock services. To more effectively promote value based private-public sector

partnerships as envisioned by emergent thinking on the roles of public and private sectors, the NEPDP will seek greater emphasis in supporting private sector actor (KLMC and LTMSK) to increase their effectiveness in marketing, while the government departments assume greater roles in disease control/surveillance and trade regulation.

5. The project vehicle was involved in a road accident towards the end of the quarter. This stifled travel even within the accessible areas and may continue to constrain field activities during the current quarter. Arrangements are being made to provide alternative means of transport to the field team.

Annexes

Annex 1: Rift Valley Fever Outbreak – Status Report and Proposed Next Actions

By Dr. Samuel M.K Muriuki (BVM, MSc.VPH, DPPM),

North Eastern Pastoral Development Program

1. Introduction and Background Information

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is an arthropod-borne zoonosis affecting ruminants, camels and humans. It occurs in epidemics characterized by high morbidity and sometimes mortality in both humans and livestock, and stormy abortions in ruminants and sometimes in humans. There is a chance that low key endemicities occur in outbreak foci during normal periods. Its clinical presentation ranges from mild febrile reactions to severe haemorrhagic clinical crises usually accompanied by complications such as encephalitis, hepatitis and retinitis in humans. In animals, the disease may remain unapparent in non-pregnant adults but cause severe abortions in pregnant animals and high mortality among the young. The disease is transmitted by insect vectors in animals with up to 30 species of mosquitoes having been confirmed to carry the infection. Mosquitoes have been shown to transmit the virus trans-ovarially through generations, and this is thought to be one of the key methods of maintaining the virus in the inter-epidemic periods. Other biting arthropods are also capable of transmitting the RVF virus. Arthropod vectors get RVF infection by biting infected animals or humans, but some are able to sustain the virus through their eggs across epidemics.

Epidemiologically, Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is endemic in the Horn of Africa and other countries within the African continent. The RVF virus occurs from south Africa to Saudi Arabia, including Madagascar. The most recent outbreaks occurred in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and Yemen) between 1998-2000. It thrives under various ecological conditions including wetlands and arid/semi-arid areas. Disease occurrence can be both endemic and epidemic depending on climatic and related ecological factors. The zoonotic nature of RVF means that outbreaks lead to epidemics in both human and livestock populations, with serious consequences for public health and trade in livestock and livestock products. Since its confirmation in Kenya in the early 1930's, serial RVF outbreaks have occurred in various countries in Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula in recent times. All the outbreaks have resulted in death among livestock and humans, and in recent times, have been the cause of restrictions to market access by livestock producers from affected countries. Various factors contribute to its occurrence and reemergence in endemic foci. While the disease has been well studied, it has not been possible to effectively anticipate and control its devastation over all these years. Various governments across Africa have instituted surveillance and control measures with varying degrees of success. However, in most cases, the disease seems to occur unabated through periodic epidemics at varying intervals due to lack of effective control strategies and resources. Inter-epidemic intervals have been generally reported to be between 10-15 years, but they seem to be decreasing; thus resulting in an increasing frequency of outbreaks. Whenever outbreaks occur, lives and assets are lost due to slow response by the concerned authorities. Ecologically, the disease also seems to be spreading to newer ecosystems, especially

the ASAL areas where the risk of spread between humans and livestock is extremely high, and effective emergency response is often constrained by poor physical infrastructure, poor service infrastructure, low levels of awareness among the populations and favourable conditions for the multiplication of arthropod vectors. Recently (2000), the RVF broke continental barriers to the Middle east, and there are now genuine fears that it will impact negatively on livestock trade and could even spread further a field with even greater public health and socio-economic consequences.

RVF outbreaks are common following increased vector populations, especially witnessed during unusually heavy rainfall in areas where outbreaks have occurred before.

Outbreaks, however, easily occur even outside their traditional endemic foci due to the versatility of its vectors and mobility of susceptible hosts. The current heavy rainfall and flooding affecting most of the horn of Africa countries presents a serious risk for an RVF outbreak. Historical evidence has shown that periods of increased RVF activity almost always follow periods of heavy, widespread and persistent rainfall as is the case presently. For instance, during the El nino rains of 1997/8 when rainfall 60-100 times the normal was experienced in Kenya, there occurred a RVF outbreak which spread to neighbouring Tanzania and Somali. The outbreak was associated with flood water *Aedes spp* of mosquitoes which breed on ground flood pools. Additionally, vegetation changes experienced during heavy rains, provides additional habitation and a conducive environment for RVF vectors. The prevailing floods and heavy rains in all these areas have created conducive conditions for the occurrence of RVF outbreaks from existing endemicities in all these countries.

2. The Outbreak – Current Status

The current outbreak in Northern Kenya comes after a similar one 8-9 years ago, and only 6 years to a similar outbreak in Ethiopia and Somalia. Like the previous outbreak which occurred during the unusual El Nino rains, the current one also occurs at a time when Kenya and the other horn of Africa countries, notably Ethiopia and Somalia are also experiencing heavy rains and flooding. This scenario portends a serious risk of the Kenyan outbreak spreading into a regional RVF outbreak. Besides damning predictions to that effect (EMPRES Watch, November 2006), the Kenyan outbreak which started in Mid December 2006 in a localized area of Garissa District has rapidly spread to at least 13 districts across four provinces. Reports indicate that RVF suspect samples have been submitted from Somalia and Tanzania. This has clearly become a regional problem.

There is a chance that this spread has not been caused by movement of the disease from Garissa, but rather from eruptions of the virus from existing endemicities in these areas. Further spread into newer areas will not be surprising. Such an eventuality, would besides resulting in heavy mortalities in both humans and livestock, have serious impacts on the livelihoods of livestock keepers in the whole regions. The FAO EMPRES Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases Watch which keeps track of the climatic and vegetation indicators for RVF risk, has predicted an increased risk of RVF outbreaks in a wider area, notably; northern Senegal/southern Mauritania region, Somalia, Ethiopia, Botswana and Namibia, East Africa and other listed endemic foci (EMPRES Watch, November, 2006).

The RVF outbreak reported in Garissa Kenya over the past 4 weeks has to date claimed well up to over 148 human lives, killed thousands of livestock and resulted in enormous socio-economic losses to both infected areas and the national economy. What started as a localized infection in a small part of the district has since spread to Wajir, Ijara, Tana River, Kilifi, Kwale and Isiolo districts in a span of 4 weeks. NEP and Coast province districts, where NEPDP areas of operation, are the most affected, with the virus claiming about 111 of the reported mortalities. These figures are likely to grossly under-represent the true situation.

At the time of reporting, RVF is reported to have claimed over 32 lives in southern Somalia where it is spreading fast. Due to the heavy rains and flooding, most roads in the affected areas are not motorable. This has compromised both the emergency response as well as information flow to ascertain the true magnitude of the problem. As a result, the true number of infected persons and livestock, and those dead from the disease cannot not be established. The reported spread of the outbreak to more areas is a serious complication the situation.

Besides the sickness associated with RVF, the disease is also major cause of economic losses. Due to its contagious nature and public health significance, the sale of livestock and livestock products by infected countries has been banned and livestock movement. This has greatly compromise income generation in the affected areas. For instance, all livestock markets and livestock products businesses especially butcheries and slaughter houses in NEP have been closed for the past 6 weeks. As a result, people cannot access their chosen recipes and many families cannot meet basic financial obligations.

Additionally, the export market for livestock and livestock products is likely to suffer for a long time to come. For instance, following the El nino outbreak of 1998/9 (Kenya and Somalia) and 2000 (Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea), Saudi Arabia and other middle East countries banned livestock exports from all the GHA countries. Somalia alone lost over \$100 Million in livestock exports, while prices fell by up to 30% for Somalia, Ethiopian and Eritrean livestock. Other GHA countries lost export opportunities to the gulf and other markets. This led to loss of livelihoods and increased dependence on relief and aid.

The negative impacts of the current outbreak of RVF in Kenya and its spread to other countries in the region will be felt for a long time. Serious measures are required to put in place, sustainable RVF control strategies.

3. Mitigation Measures to date

The handling of the current RVF crisis in Kenya has been characterized by slow reaction and shortage of resources. It implies low capacity on the part of concerned authorities, lack of emergency preparedness and inability to predict and act on increased risk of disease outbreaks. Subsequently, there a real need to take measures to strengthen the veterinary departments in the region, improve and expand disease surveillance and early warning, and mount effective emergency preparedness to stem deaths and losses following outbreaks. This will require both policy and resources based interventions.

Despite the tough challenges experienced, Kenya has mounted a brave response to the RVF outbreak. A five pronged approach combining ring vaccination, disease intelligence and risk assessment, treatment of infected animals, control of arthropod vectors and education of livestock keepers has been adopted.

Vaccination and disease intelligence efforts were mainly concentrated in the areas around infected foci to stem spread and advice on the next course of action respectively. In the infected areas, vector control, treatment of sick animals are the main activities. Education of livestock keepers and the general public has been undertaken as a cross cutting intervention across the board.

From these actions, about 185,000 livestock have been vaccinated and treated with pour-ons (pyrethroids) in North Eastern and TRD alone. Additionally, the disease surveillance teams had collected samples from 757 livestock from high risk areas around the infection foci and observed (physical appraisal) 174 animals of all species. Laboratory tests on these animals have confirmed RVF in 13 districts in 4 provinces.

The North Eastern Pastoral Development Program has played a role in the current RVF interventions. The program technical staff participated in discussions on the strategy adopted and mobilized resources for the exercise. All the 3 mobile labs provided by the project have been mobilized and facilitated for the exercise in North Eastern and Coast Provinces. Vehicles provided to the private sector partners by the programs were also mobilized and facilitated for the disease surveillance and risk assessment exercise in areas neighbouring the outbreak foci. Project personnel and partners have also been actively involved in various aspects of the intervention, including strategy development, mobilization of local communities, coordination of activities at the field level, supply of basic equipment, fuel and information gathering and communication with the field teams. The NEPDP office in Garissa is the main communications center for the NEP operation.

AU-IBAR and NEPDP liaison at Nairobi are also actively involved in additional resource mobilization and discussions with other stakeholders in an effort to come up with a lasting solution.

Kenya is also receiving and screening RVF suspect samples from Somalia and Tanzania.

4. Regional Intervention – A strategic requirement

The prevailing climatic cycles in Africa (drought/floods) represent a continuing high risk of cyclic RVF outbreaks. While these are increasing in frequency and intensity, our concern is that the regional veterinary authorities seem unable to manage the outbreaks within acceptable periods of time and within their own means. Additionally, outbreaks seem to be spreading the relatively marginal areas where it is more difficult to manage outbreaks due to poor infrastructure and close relationship between animals and humans.

There also, does not seem to exist, sustainable and well resourced RVF control strategies. This calls for proactive measures by all concerned, but especially those supporting veterinary and public health authorities in the high-risk countries and endemic foci to deal with outbreaks in a more sustainable way. The measures should include increased intensity and coverage of surveillance activities, appropriate control policies, harmonization of livestock movements, early warning and emergency preparedness, constitution and training of emergency response teams, enhancement of vaccine production and laboratory capabilities, improved networking with relevant stakeholders etc.

Due to its cross-border character, long term RVF control and outbreak mitigation are best tackled at regional rather than individual state levels. Thus, high risk/endemic countries within the African continent should be assisted to take sustainable measures to reduce the risk of outbreak and or reduce potential damage should the outbreak be inevitable. The AU-IBAR, by virtue of its continental mandate is best placed to spearhead such an initiative on a continent wide or REC scale.

The current outbreak poses a serious threat to key countries within IGAD. RVF control measures for the region need to recognize the fact that though member states have surveillance systems in place, these are often nominal rather than effective, and that little or no action is taken to stem increased risk even when this has been identified. It should also be noted that once an area is affected by RVF, chances are high that recurrences will always be experienced whenever epidemio-climatic conditions allow. Thus, appropriate measures must be put in place on a long-term basis to ensure outbreaks are controlled before they cause a lot of damage or are prevented all together. Since RVF outbreaks have defied both biological and geographical boundaries, control strategies should be equally biologically integrated (cover both human and livestock aspects and target environmental as well as individual host interventions) and trans-boundary in scope.

In view of the current outbreak in Kenya other Horn of Africa countries, AU-IBAR proposes the following measures to deal with the problem immediately and in the medium term:

4.1 Develop a Regional/IGAD/COMESA strategy for the control of RVF (and other TADs).

This should also include policy reforms on RVFs control. The development of a regional RVF policy is essential to stem its rapid spread and the havoc associated

with frequent outbreaks in the African continent. The policy development process should be participatory under the coordination of AU-IBAR. Regional Economic Communities where the disease is endemic should be the key stakeholders and beneficiaries of the strategy. The Middle East should be included in these discussions. In order to achieve this, resources are required to facilitate the organization of regional consultative forums, the crafting of a control strategy and its implementation.

4.2 Develop and network with other stakeholders on a regional RVF surveillance and early warning system for outbreak control.

AU-IBAR as the technical organisation of the AU in charge of livestock, is best placed to coordinate and monitor TADs on a continental/regional scale, gather and collate information and provide advisory services to African governments on disease risk, mitigation strategies etc. Such an effort must involve collaboration between governments, public and private animal health providers, livestock traders, research and related institutions and international technical organisations involved in animal health, epidemiology and forecasting activities. This should bring together organisations such as FAO, ILRI, OIE, WHO, CDC etc in a coordinated effort to assure efficient service delivery and resource use. Through the initiative, AU-IBAR can provide leadership in the collection, analysis and collation of retrospective and prospective epidemiological data for the development, validation and use of a dynamic risk assessment model for forecasting Rift Valley fever and other TADs outbreaks. AU-IBAR would also seek collaboration with climatology and landscape epidemiologists so as to develop internal capacity and establish an integrated, epidemiologic and disease forecasting model for the GHA and neighbouring regions. Livestock and climatologic data, if well correlated can provide accurate and reliable model.

4.3 Capacity building of national Veterinary Authorities on RVF surveillance and emergency control.

AU-IBAR has the experience of working with and building the capacity of national governments in the control/eradication of Rinderpest. In a similar vein, it would play a crucial role in helping member states in RVF endemic foci to establish surveillance /diagnostic systems and adopt disease control policies that will enable them to control RVF and make new outbreaks less destructive. A key missing ingredient in most outbreaks, is an effective emergency response. A capacity building initiative for regional veterinary departments would, involve among others, a clear emergency preparedness plan.

4.4 Coordinate Regional RVF Control Efforts

The RVF has become a major concern for livestock keepers and traders between the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) and the Arabian Peninsula. Between 1998 and 2006, there have been several outbreaks and subsequent trade bans as a result of the outbreaks. Most activity on RVF takes place in response to outbreaks, often with serious consequences as losses are inevitable once an outbreak has taken place. In order to stem the consequences of RVF outbreaks in endemic African Countries, AU-IBAR could undertake various activities to strengthen RVF control work across the continent by among others, supporting the development of an effective vaccine

against the disease and generating increased scientific knowledge to facilitate interventions in decimating the virus during outbreaks and inter-epidemic periods. In furtherance of this objective, AU-IBAR will seek to develop research proposals to seek answers to RVF concerns, and undertake collaborative vaccine development/trials to identify suitable vaccines for use in livestock and humans, including the pregnant. The currently available vaccine for Rift Valley fever has been in use for several decades in many parts of Africa and the Middle East and induces life-long protection of vaccinated livestock. It is, however, reported to cause over 30% in pregnant ewes. This is not economically justifiable. The available inactivated vaccine that can be used in pregnant ewes only induces short-lived immunity, requiring repeat vaccinations in six months. This is both expensive and logistically cumbersome especially in the pastoral ecosystems where most of the animals for export originate. AU-IBAR can seek to work with the Pasteur Institute, Paris and other research and development institutions to undertake testing and evaluation new vaccines for RVF. AU-IBAR will should also seek a greater role in coordinating with other players in the area of RVF and TAD control efforts, regional harmonisation of control strategies and harmonisation of technical approaches, e.g. decisions on trade issues etc

4.5 Immediate Actions

- 4.5.1 In order to realize improved RVF control in the HOA region, it is necessary for AU-IBAR as the leading institution on animal resources in Africa to initiate and coordinate actions towards a regional strategy for RVF control.
- 4.5.2 Take part in or call meetings of relevant stakeholders to discuss the RVF problems and identify a long term strategy to deal with the problem on a regional basis
- 4.5.3 Organize a regional conference to discuss RVF control and initiate action plans for a regional strategy. This will require resource mobilisation in collaboration with other stakeholders, especially FAO, WHO, CDC, OIE, GTZ, EU, USAID, UN-OCHA etc. It should also involve all the affected countries/RECs. A concept note can be developed for fundraising purposes.
- 4.5.4 Create a RVF liaison mechanism to facilitate resource mobilisation, networking and collaborative efforts at IBAR, Nairobi.
- 4.5.5 Identify and sustain partnerships with relevant stakeholders in the areas of RVF and TAD control
- 4.5.6 Assess the socio-economic impact of the current outbreak and do a cost-benefit analysis of various control options in order to adequately advise regional governments on sustainable RVF control strategies

5. Justification of Suggested Actions

AU-IBAR has identified cross-border harmonization in livestock policies, livestock movement and trade, and disease control as problems that impact negatively on the livelihoods of pastoralists in the HoA. Livestock diseases have special impact on pastoral livelihoods because they, not only decimate their assets, but, are also responsible for poor productivity and inhibit access to livestock markets. RVF is among the most important trans-boundary animal diseases that has impacted pastoral livelihoods in the HoA in recent times. Widespread trade bans have been imposed by various importing countries, including traditional markets e.g. the Middle east on livestock from the HoA since the 1997-98 El Nino associated outbreak. Although a similar outbreak occurred in the ME in 2000 with equally devastating consequences, the bans were still sustained.

These outbreaks and their impacts on pastoral livelihoods have helped to magnify the need for effective preparedness to handle future epidemics, and more specifically, brought to the fore, a need for regional collaborations in dealing with trade sensitive diseases.

AU-IBAR has in the past organized forums to discuss aspects of RVF control, risk assessment and the possibility of setting up a regional monitoring and prediction model for RVF. This will not only facilitate early detection and control of outbreaks, but will also equip national authorities with a scientific system for information exchange and confidence building between them. From the forums held to date, AU-IBAR was tasked with the leadership in establish a RVF monitoring and prediction model, as well as building the capacities of member states with the GHA/IGAD region for RVF surveillance.

This responsibility has, however, not been reinforced with resources to execute it.

This concept note is intended to begin a resource mobilization effort to provide AU-IBAR with the means required to initiate a concrete program for RVF control in the HoA region.